

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 CU-04 ACDA-12 /097 W

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R 231205Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4147

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0594

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, MILL, PINT, GV, CH

SUBJECT: DINNER WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR

1. TO CHARGE'S SURPRISE, PRC AMBASSADOR PENG HUA ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION TO DINNER ON MARCH 22; PRC DCM JEN HUNG AND INTERPRETER HSIA SHOU-AN PLUS THREE US EMBOFFS ALSO ATTENDED. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE FIRST TIME PRC DIPLOMATS AT CONAKRY HAVE COME TO SOCIAL FUNCTION AT US HOME, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADORS HAVE EXCHANGED CALLS AND PERSONAL RELATIONS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CORDIAL. PENG MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS PERMITTED TO VISIT AMERICANS BILATERALLY, BUT HE MAY NOT ATTEND US EVENTS WHERE THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS ARE PRESENT. HE PROMISED HE WOULD NEXT INVITE US AMBASSADOR AND COLLEAGUES TO PRC EMBASSY FOR CHINESE MEAL. FOLLOWING PENG COMMENTS REPORTED FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH:

2. PENG PLANS TO RETURN HOME ON MARCH 29 FOR TWO MONTHS' VACATION AND TO REFRESH HIMSELF ON HAPPENINGS IN CHINA AS RESULT RECENT PARTY-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS. PENG, SEEMINGLY A PRAGMATIST, SAID GANG OF FOUR HAD BEEN ROUTED WITHIN PRC RULING APPARATUS BUT GANG'S MENTALITY STILL PREVAILED

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IN PLACES AND WOULD TAKE TIME TO BE STAMPED OUT.

3. PENG SAID PRC FAVORED SEKOU TOURE'S HISTORIC MARCH 18 RECONCILIATION WITH SENEGAL'S SENGHOR AND IVORY COAST'S HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. PEOPLE'S DAILY HAD REPORTED MONROVIA SUMMIT POSITIVELY BUT PRC DID NOT PLAN TO SEND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE. ONLY PARTIES DISAPPOINTED WITH RECON-

CILIATION WERE SOVIETS WHO, HE SAID, FEED ON TENSION AND DISCORD. PRC EMBASSY HAD FORWARDED GOG'S APPEAL FOR DROUGHT AID TO PEKING BUT HAD NO RESPONSE YET. HE SAID PRC HAD MUCH FEWER CHINESE AID PERSONNEL WORKING IN INTERIOR GUINEA NOW, EXCEPT THAT HYDRAULIC SPECIALISTS STILL WERE BUSY AT KABAK ISLAND'S IRRIGATION WORKS. IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN HOW WELL CHINESE AID PROJECTS WOULD FARE AFTER BEING TURNED OVER COMPLETELY TO GUINEANS. HE ASSUMES CHINESE-BUILT MACENTA TEA FACTORY STILL FUNCTIONS SINCE ONCE IN A WHILE TEA TINS ARE SEEN IN MARKET.

4. PENG FELT SOVIETS HAD NOT GOT MUCH OF ANYTHING FROM GUINEANS AS RESULT OF ADMIRAL GORSHKOV'S VISIT TO CONAKRY IN LATE JANUARY. HE AGREED THAT IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE GUINEA GRANTING SOVIETS WIDER BASING RIGHTS OR MILITARY CONCESSIONS WHEN GENERAL THRUST OF GOG'S FOREIGN POLICY, OUTWARDLY AT LEAST, TENDED IN INCREASINGLY NON-ALIGNED DIRECTION. PENG FLEEFULLY QUOTED SOVIET DIPLOMAT WHO ALLEGEDLY TOLD THIRD-COUNTRY COLLEAGUE RECENTLY, "GUINEA HAS ESCAPED US". IT WAS "GOOD THING" THAT GOG HAD BANNED SOVIET TU-95 FLIGHTS THROUGH CONAKRY, PENG VOLUNTEERED. GOG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE OFFICIAL, MEMBER OF RECENT GOG DELEGATION TO MOSCOW, HAD TOLD PENG SOVIETS NOW PAY \$15.50/TON FOR GUINEAN BAUXITE, UP FROM PREVIOUS \$13.50.

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5. PENG THOUGHT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT SOVIETS/ CUBANS WOULD LEAVE ETHIOPIA ONCE FIGHTING STOPPED IN HORN: "SOVIETS RESPECT ONLY FORCE, NOT MORALITY OR POLITICAL ARGUMENT". SOVIETS WILL TRY TO REGAIN THEIR POSITION IN SOMALIA AS WELL, PENG THOUGHT, AND THERE WAS FAIR POSSIBILITY SOMALIA'S SIAD BARRE COULD FALL, BUT MUCH DEPENDED ON EXTENT US WOULD NOW MOVE TO SUPPORT SOMALIA. FOR ITSELF, PRC WAS FAR AWAY FROM HORN, TOO WEAK (I.E., LACKING FLEET, WEAPONS) TO SEND BARRE HELP. PRC WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE SOVIET HEGEMONISM BUT NEEDED TO HUSBAND ITS RESOURCES TO DEFEND ITSELF AT HOME.

6. PENG HAD "NO IDEA" WHY SOVIETS WERE PUMPING ARMS INTO MALI AT GREAT RATE AND WAS A PERPLEXED AS EVERYBODY ELSE AS TO WHY MALI NEEDS SUCH ARMS.

7. PENG DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RHODESIAN PROBLEM OR RELATIONS BETWEEN FACTIONS WITHIN PATRIOTIC FRONT AND BEGGED OFF FROM DISCUSSION, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT PRC SAW CURRENT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH SMITH AS "SWINDLE" AND "MYSTIFICATION".

8. PERSONALLY, PENG WAS RELAXED, AMIABLE AND ASSURED.
HE SEEMED INTERESTED IN FACTUAL EXCHANGE -- PARTICULARLY
ON BAUXITE PRICES, FOREIGN FOOD AID TO GUINEA, AND SOVIET
MILITARY Foothold IN GUINEA -- AND LEFT LITURGICAL HARANGUE
AGAINST SOVIETS AT EVENING'S END TO DCM JEN, TO WHOM
PENG OCCASIONALLY TURNED ON CERTAIN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
QUESTIONS.
MAINLAND

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